

April 1988

SURF PINES NEWSLETTER**SCANNED**

1. Public Notice on Lead required by Water Systems by 6-19-88:

Rules were recently adopted by the Environmental Protection Agency and the State Health Division which require notification to water users about lead in drinking water. These rules result from the 1986 Amendments to the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act.

Attached is an EPA notice about the presence of lead in drinking water.

Note that the Environmental Protection Agency standard for the presence of lead in drinking water has a maximum of 0.050 parts per million. The Surf Pines Water System is regularly tested according to the EPA standards and the reports are filed with the State Health Division. The presence of lead in the Surf Pines Water System has consistently tested at a maximum of 0.001 parts per million.

2. Security:

Some members have questioned the transfer of Surf Pines Security from Howard Corder to Milt Hoff. Our budget is always tight and available funds are needed to upgrade the water and road systems. The security transfer will enable the Association to save over \$200 per month.

The Board appreciates the work done by Howard acting as security in past years, as well as his help on other projects. Howard, along with Milt Hoff are available to members desiring special security services.

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IMPORTANT NOTICE ABOUT LEAD AND YOUR DRINKING WATER

This notice is being provided to inform you of the potential adverse health effects of lead, how to determine if you are being exposed to lead in your drinking water, and how to take some simple steps to avoid exposure.

"The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) sets drinking water standards and has determined that lead is a health concern at certain levels of exposure. There is currently a standard of 0.050 parts per million (ppm). Based on new health information, EPA is likely to lower this standard significantly.

"Part of the purpose of this notice is to inform you of the potential adverse health effects of lead. This is being done even though your water may not be in violation of the current standard.

"EPA and others are concerned about lead in drinking water. Too much lead in the human body can cause serious damage to the brain, kidneys, nervous system, and red blood cells. The greatest risk, even with short-term exposure, is to young children and pregnant women.

"Lead levels in your drinking water are likely to be highest:

- * if your home or water system has lead pipes, or
- * if your home has copper pipes with lead solder, and
 - if the home is less than five years old, or
 - if you have soft or acidic water, or
 - if water sits in the pipes for several hours."

How does lead get into drinking water? Lead can be present in drinking water either from the water supply source or because of corrosion of metal pipes used for water mains or home plumbing. In Oregon, routine required testing shows that lead levels in public water supply sources and water mains are either undetectable or much lower than the current allowable standard. However, many public water supplies provide water that is soft or acidic and may be corrosive to metal piping, especially piping used for home plumbing including copper and galvanized iron plumbing. Prior to a ban on lead based solders imposed by the State of Oregon in August, 1984, copper house plumbing was commonly joined using lead based solder. The lead from the solder can enter the water especially during long periods of low or no water use in the home such as overnight. Galvanized iron plumbing contains a small amount of lead in the galvanized pipe coating which can also enter the water. The state has also required that lead pipes used to connect homes to water mains in some older sections of a few Oregon communities be removed by water suppliers within ten years.

How can you determine if there is lead in your water? Again, lead levels in Oregon public water supplies at the point of entry to homes has been shown to be very low by routine testing. However, lead can still enter your water from your own house plumbing. Although you can not see lead in the water, corrosion of house plumbing often creates visible signs such as blue or green stains on white fixtures (due to copper pipes) or red or brown stains or early morning discolored water (galvanized iron pipes). If you notice these stains or regularly see discolored water early in the morning, lead may also be present.

You can determine the type of plumbing used in your home by looking at exposed pipe in a crawlspace or basement. Copper plumbing is copper colored with silver colored soldered joints. Galvanized iron pipes are silver or gray colored joined by fittings with screw threads. Lead levels are likely to be highest after water sits in the pipes for several hours. If your house has copper plumbing installed before the August, 1984 lead solder ban, but less than five years ago, lead levels could be elevated. After five years lead levels from solder usually decrease.

The only way to be sure of the amount of lead in the household water is to have the water tested by a certified laboratory. A list of Oregon certified labs is available from the State Health Division, your local county health department, or your water supplier.

How can you protect yourself from lead? Fortunately, it is easy to avoid exposure to lead from household water. First, use only cold water for drinking, cooking, beverages, and preparing baby formula - high temperatures in the hot water pipes increase the potential for high lead levels. Second, always run the water for at least several minutes after periods of non-use, such as overnight. Third, if you have plumbing work done on your house or do it yourself, be sure that only lead free materials meeting the state plumbing code are used.

For further information - contact:

Water Supply Name SURF PINES WATER ASSOCIATION

Contact Person M.H. Schrager

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